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Letter dated 23 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the invitation to Member States that are not members of the Security Council to submit written statements for the summit in connection with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, to be held on 24 September 2009. In this regard, I would appreciate it if you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of September, would circulate the attached statement as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Maria Luiza **Ribeiro Viotti**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Written statement by Brazil for the Security Council summit held in connection with nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

This timely initiative to hold a special meeting of the Security Council on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation brings renewed hope of consolidating the current positive momentum for advancing the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. There is a clear and inextricable link between disarmament and non-proliferation. They are mutually reinforcing. The best guarantee against nuclear proliferation is nuclear disarmament.

The very existence of nuclear weapons is a serious threat to peace and security. Only through a commitment at the highest level will it be possible to overcome the remaining challenges to a nuclear-weapons-free world. Since the end of the Cold War, there have been significant reductions in nuclear arsenals, but their total elimination — to which the nuclear-weapon States are obligated and unequivocally committed — is far from being achieved.

For meaningful and enduring results in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Brazil considers it essential that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the obligations that stem from it, including the commitments made at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences, are fully implemented. Results also depend on balanced progress in the Treaty's three main "pillars": disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Tilting this balance will ultimately compromise the Treaty's legitimacy and efficacy and therefore undermine the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Firm and irreversible steps must be taken in the path towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Bringing the CTBT into force would be a major factor in strengthening the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Brazil welcomes the Conference to Facilitate the Entry into Force of the CTBT that is being held this week, as well as the commitment by certain States to pursue ratification of the Treaty or accession to it. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, States should refrain from conducting nuclear tests.

Resuming substantive negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament is another essential step. After nearly twelve years of deadlock, a programme of work was adopted in 2009. Next year's session must not go back to square one, but start negotiations promptly, on the basis of the programme of work, on issues such as a fissile materials treaty, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and negative security assurances. Substantive discussions on nuclear disarmament must also be initiated.

Extending the concept of nuclear-weapon-free zones to other areas of the world, freely agreed upon by the States of a region, is also a positive contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. As a member of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, Brazil is convinced of the pertinence and usefulness of this approach.

Brazil takes note of the draft resolution submitted by the United States for consideration by the Security Council, and recognizes its positive contribution in putting greater focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. We believe, however, that a more assertive reaffirmation of the commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the provision of a clear and irreversible path to achieve that goal would have better reflected the aspirations of the great majority of mankind.

When dealing with nuclear issues the Security Council must bear in mind its primary responsibility in the field of international peace and security. A balanced approach to the nuclear issues can only be attained when rights and obligations are accorded equal importance. Nuclear technology has proven itself an important tool for the promotion of social and economic development and peace, and, in this sense, the right to develop, research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, in accordance with the NPT, should not be restricted.